

REMARKS

The Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections. Nevertheless, the claims were amended without prejudice or disclaimer to recite the compounds formerly recited in claim 13.

Additionally for the record, attached is a copy of Galinski cited in the specification at page 2, which describes the term "compatible solutes."

The Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The claim amendments render the rejection moot. The compounds of the amended claims are structurally different than retinoids.

Nevertheless, the following comments are offered for the record. Retinoids are not encompassed by the term "compatible solutes."

Additionally, without prejudice or disclaimer, applicants provide that it is not known to them that the compounds of formula Ia or Ib are MMP inhibitors as described for the compounds of US '254.

Also attached is US 4,877,805 which lists retinoids as described in US '254.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

/Csaba Henter/

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